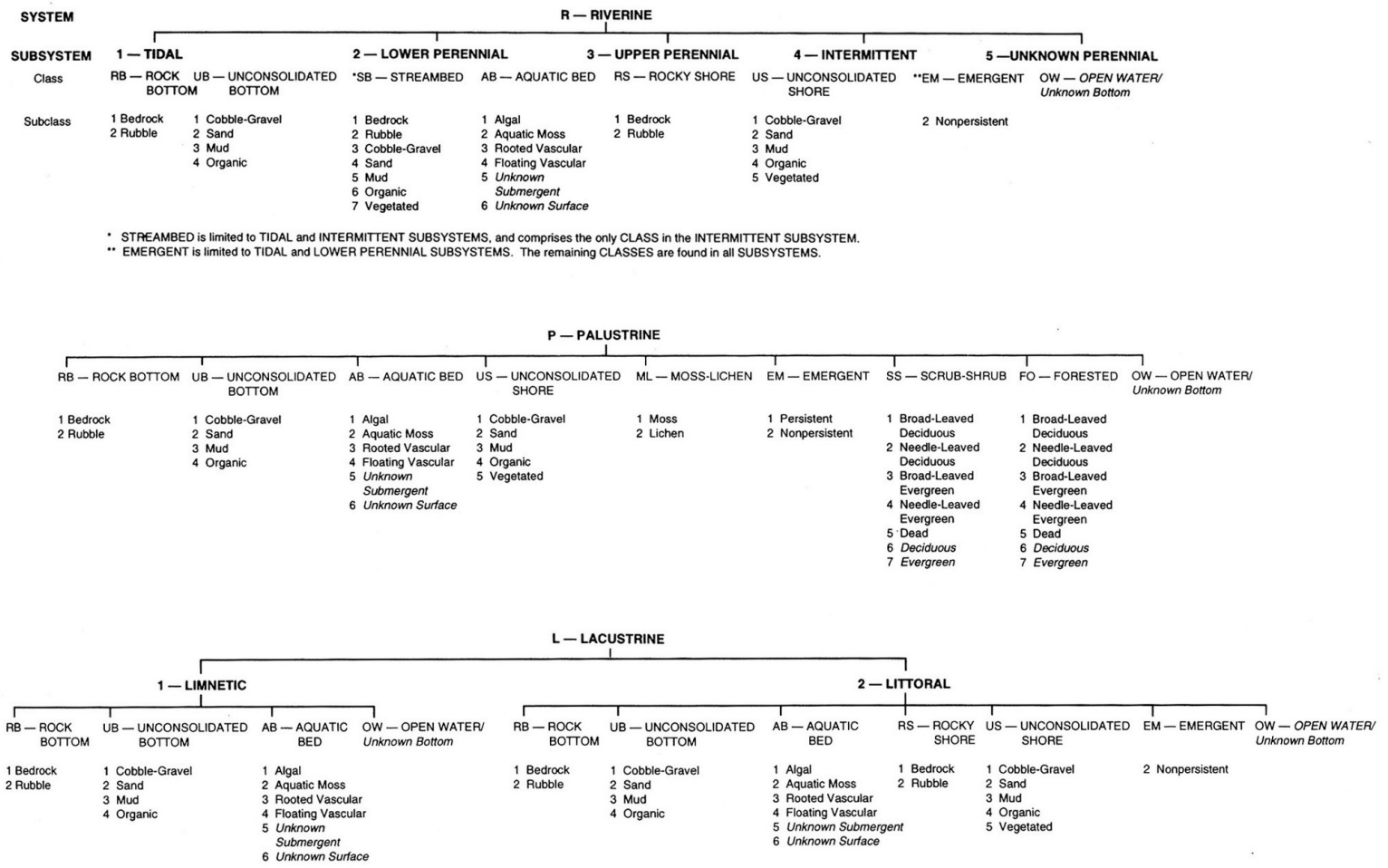


CLASSIFICATION OF WETLANDS AND DEEPWATER HABITATS OF THE UNITED STATES

By
Lewis M. Cowardin



MODIFIERS							
In order to more adequately describe wetland and deepwater habitats one or more of the water regime, water chemistry, soil, or special modifiers may be applied at the class or lower level in the hierarchy. The formed modifier may also be applied to the ecological system.							
WATER REGIME				WATER CHEMISTRY		SOIL	SPECIAL MODIFIERS
Non-Tidal		Tidal		Coastal Salinity	Inland Salinity	pH Modifiers for all Fresh Water	
A Temporarily Flooded	H Permanently Flooded	K Artificially Flooded	*S Temporary-Tidal	1 Hyperhaline	7 Hypersaline	a Acid	b Beaver d Partially Drained/ Drenched f Farmed h Diked/Impounded r Artificial Substrate s Spoil x Excavated
B Saturated	J Intermittently Flooded	L Subtidal	*R Seasonal-Tidal	2 Euhaline	8 Eusaline	t Circumneutral	
C Seasonally Flooded	K Artificially Flooded	M Irregularly Exposed	*T Semipermanent-Tidal	3 Mixohaline	9 Mixosaline	t Alkaline	
D Seasonally Flooded/ Well Drained	W Intermittently Flooded/Temporary	N Regularly Flooded	*V Permanent-Tidal	4 Polyhaline	0 Fresh		
E Seasonally Flooded/ Saturated	Y Saturated/Semipermanent/ Seasonal	P Irregularly Flooded	U Unknown	5 Mesohaline			
F Semipermanently Flooded	Z Intermittently Exposed/ Permanent	* These water regimes are only used in tidally influenced, freshwater systems.		6 Oligohaline			
G Intermittently Exposed	U Unknown			0 Fresh			

Classification Crossover

Many older NWI maps contain wetland classification codes that are no longer used and are usually not listed or described in any current NWI classification documentation.

These code crossovers apply to the "Class" section of the wetland coding scheme.

OLD CODE	NEW CODE
BB (Beach/Bar)	SB (Stream Bed)
FL (Flat)	US (Unconsolidated Shore)
OW (Open Water)	UB (Unconsolidated Bottom)

NWI Map Disclaimer
For Hardcopy Maps

National Wetlands Inventory maps are derived from stereoscopic analysis of high altitude aerial photographs. Wetlands and riparian areas were identified based on vegetation, visible hydrology and geography in accordance with **Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States (FWS/OBS – 79/31 December 1979)**. There is a margin of error inherent in the use of aerial photos. Age, scale and emulsion of the aerial photos, as well as seasonal and climatic variations at the time of aerial photo acquisition may affect the way in which wetlands are identified. Hence, it is possible that a wetland may exist that is not shown on a map, or wetlands, mapped at the time of aerial photo acquisition, may be different or gone.

The National Wetlands Inventory is an inventorying and classifying agency, which only provides wetland maps and information. The National Wetlands Inventory is not a regulatory agency. Federal, State and local regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over wetlands may define and describe wetlands in a different manner than that used in this inventory. Persons intending to engage in activities involving modifications within or adjacent to a wetland areas should seek the advice of the appropriate Federal, State or local agencies concerning specified regulatory programs and proprietary jurisdictions that may effect such activities.

For Federal wetland regulatory information, please contact the Army Corps of Engineers.

NOTE: This table does not represent the entire Cowardin Classification System. Contact NWI Region 2 for complete system information.

